

CLAIMS: STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) A method of forming a random mixture of oligonucleotides which is resistant to self-annealing comprising the steps of selecting a random mixture of oligonucleotides which are 6-mers to 8-mers and drying said mixture.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the mixture is dried by freeze-drying.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the mixture also contains at least one of: a polymerase enzyme; a supply of nucleotides for chain extension; a labeled nucleotide; a dye; a stabilizer; and a buffer.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the random mixture of oligonucleotides is of 6-mer oligonucleotides.

11. (Previously presented) In a method of forming a random mixture of oligonucleotides the improvement comprising the steps of selecting a random mixture of oligonucleotides which are 6-mers to 8-mers and drying said mixture.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the mixture is dried by freeze-drying.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the mixture also contains at least one of: a polymerase enzyme; a supply of nucleotides for chain extension; a labeled nucleotide; a dye; a stabilizer; and a buffer.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the random mixture of oligonucleotides is of 6-mer oligonucleotides.